

Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire, LLC on November 30, 2001. These transfers are in the process of being recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the double patenting rejection and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowability for all of the claims pending in the application. If any issues remain after this amendment, please call Fred H. Zollinger, III at (330) 244-1174.

Respectfully submitted at Canton, Ohio this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003.

SAND & SEBOLT

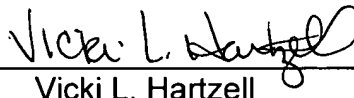


By: Fred H. Zollinger, III  
Reg. No. 39,438

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4940 Munson Street, NW, Suite 1100  
Canton, OH 44718-3615  
Telephone: (330) 244-1174  
Facsimile: (330) 244-1173  
FHZ/vh  
Attorney Docket: 1110-PU-CONT-DIV; P96058US2B

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (Amendment A in application serial no. 09/976,076 filed October 12, 2001) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2003.

  
Vicki L. Hartzell

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF CONVERSION  
OF  
BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, INC.  
TO  
BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, LLC.

COPY

WHEREAS, Bridgestone/Firestone Research, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, having an address of 1659 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44301, has been converted to Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC according to Delaware law and as evidenced by the Certified Copy of the Certificate of Conversion attached hereto as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC desires to record the Certification of Conversion for position as sole owner of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the United States Letters Patents and applications for Letters Patent described in Exhibit B attached hereto and made a part hereof (hereinafter "Patents"); and

NOW, THEREFORE, Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC is successor to Bridgestone/Firestone Research, Inc. of all right, title and interest in and to the said marks, together with the goodwill of the business symbolized by the marks, and the identified Registrations and Applications thereof.

Submitted for Recordation by

BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH LLC.

By: John H. Hornikel  
Name: John H. Hornikel  
Title: Secretary

Date and Time: November 28, 2001  
5:00 PM

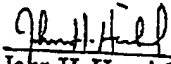
**CERTIFICATE OF CONVERSION**  
**OF**  
**BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH INC.**  
**(a Delaware corporation)**  
**TO A**  
**DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**

**COPY**

Pursuant to Section 18-214 of the Delaware Limited Liability Company Act, as amended:

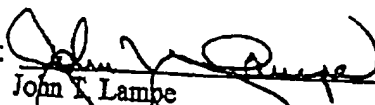
1. Bridgestone/Firestone Research Inc. is a corporation that was incorporated on April 16, 1990, under the laws of the State of Delaware.
2. The name of the corporation immediately prior to filing this certificate of conversion was "Bridgestone/Firestone Research Inc."
3. The name of the limited liability company, as set forth in its certificate of formation, is "Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC."
4. The conversion of Bridgestone/Firestone Research Inc., a Delaware corporation, to Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, will be effective at 5:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) on November 28, 2001.

**BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH INC.**

By:   
John H. Hornickel  
Its Secretary

and

By: **BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE INC.**  
Its Sole Stockholder

By:   
John T. Lampe  
Its Chairman, CEO, and President

CH-1192766v1

STATE OF DELAWARE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS  
FILED 05:00 PM 11/28/2001  
010603596 - 2227773

State of Delaware  
Office of the Secretary of State

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PAGE 1

COPY

I, HARRIET SMITH WINDSOR, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF CONVERSION OF A DELAWARE CORPORATION UNDER THE NAME OF "BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH INC." TO A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, CHANGING ITS NAME FROM "BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH INC." TO "BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE RESEARCH, LLC", FILED IN THIS OFFICE ON THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, A.D. 2001, AT 5 O'CLOCK P.M.



*Harriet Smith Windsor*  
Harriet Smith Windsor, Secretary of State

2227773 8100V

010606068

AUTHENTICATION: 1471505..

DATE: 11-29-01

EXHIBIT A

## ASSIGNMENT

COPY

IN CONSIDERATION of the sum of One Dollar (1.00), and of other good and valuable consideration paid to the undersigned Assignor, by the Assignee, **Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire, LLC**, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of **Delaware**, having a business address of **535 Marriott Drive, Nashville, TN 37214**, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned Assignor by these presents does hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over and have sold, assigned, transferred and set over unto the said Assignee the entire right, title and interest in and to the invention or improvement in U.S. Patent Application Serial Number **09/976,076** filed **October 12, 2001**, its continuations and divisionals, in and for the United States and all foreign countries, the same to be held and enjoyed by said Assignee, its successors, assigns or other legal representatives, to the full ends of the terms for which all Letters Patent therefor may be granted, as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the undersigned if this assignment and sale had not been made.

AND SAID ASSIGNEE IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED to make application for and to receive Letters Patent for said invention in any of said countries at its election.

AND BY THIS COVENANT the undersigned Assignor will execute or procure any further necessary assurance of title to said invention and Letters Patent; and at any time, upon the request and at the expense of said Assignee, will execute and deliver any and all papers that may be necessary or desirable to perfect the title to said invention or any Letters Patent which may be granted therefor in said Assignee, its successors, assigns or other legal representatives, and, upon the request and at the expense of said Assignee, will execute any additional or divisional applications for patents for said invention, or any part or parts thereof, and for the reissue of any Letters Patents to be granted therefor, and will make all rightful oaths and do all lawful acts requisite for

procuring the same or for aiding therein, without further compensation, but at the expense of said Assignee, its successors, assigns or other legal representatives.

AND THE COMMISSIONER of Patents is hereby authorized and requested to issue any and all Letters Patent of the United States for said Invention, to said Assignee.

This Assignment has an effective date of November 30, 2001.

WITNESS:

John M. Vasuta

Assignor: Bridgestone/Firestone Research, LLC  
By: John M. Vasuta  
Assistant Secretary for Bridgestone/Firestone  
Research, LLC

Date March 17, 2003

State of Ohio

County of Summit

SWORN to and subscribed to before me this 17 day of March, 2003.



Betsy E. Staeger  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Betsy E. Staeger  
Notary Public  
Residence - Portage City  
State Wide Jurisdiction, Ohio  
My Commission Expires December 21, 2006

COPY

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Attorney Docket: P96058US2B